

BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA)

MCM Data Fusion Techniques for Multiple Unmanned Sensors & Systems

INTRODUCTION:

This publication constitutes a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) as contemplated in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and the DoD Grants and Agreements Regulations (DODGARS) 22.315. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP), solicitation, and/or additional information regarding this announcement will not be issued.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) will not issue paper copies of this announcement. The ONR reserves the right to select for award all some or none of the proposals in response to this announcement. The ONR reserves the right to fund all, some or none of the proposals received under this BAA. ONR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this BAA will not be returned. It is the policy of ONR to treat all proposals as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Agency Name

Office of Naval Research

2. Research Opportunity Title

MCM Data Fusion Techniques for Multiple Unmanned Sensors & Systems

3. Program Name

Not Applicable

4. Research Opportunity Number

BAA 06-027

5. Response Date

White Papers are due no later than 2:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. local time on 19 September 2006.

Full Proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. local time on 16 October 2006.

6. Research Opportunity Description

ONR is interested in innovative and functional technologies to augment the command decision process via fusion of information specifically as a means to accelerate mine countermeasure mission (MCM) timelines. This includes historical and current data from air, surface, and underwater tactical sensors (sonar, electro-optic, magnetic, etc.); environmental sensors and databases; tactical and doctrinal information; target specific models / knowledge; etc. There are four general areas of interest: planning (for collection of fusible information), fusion of information, display of fused information, and coregistration of contact-level data. The relevant assets are assumed to be a heterogeneous collection of fielded and developmental manned and unmanned systems. Specific topics within these general interest areas are given below; submissions within the general interest areas but not specifically listed below will also receive consideration.

- Multi-asset coverage planning for large areas including incomplete coverage, adaptive sampling, etc.
- Multi-asset allocation including optimal, adaptive search planning in lieu of traditional area partitioning and asset assignment as a means to manage mutual interference issues
- Exploitation of spatial patterns, either for the purpose of accelerating the search for mine lines, etc. or to accelerate spatial registration of clutter objects to accelerate MCM timelines
- Boundary estimation techniques for minefields or areas of high contact density based on historical or in-process surveys, complete or incomplete
- Feature-level data fusion from multiple sensors on the same MCM platform, different MCM platforms, or on the basis of current and historical data

- Score, algorithm, or classifier fusion from multiple sensors on the same platform or same / similar sensors on different platforms
- Data co-registration techniques based on navigational information, feature-level information (i.e. sensor features), or spatial pattern information (multiple contacts, bathymetric features, etc.)
- Display technologies, algorithms, and solutions that allow human operators to quickly distill, filter, and intuitively assimilate relevant information
- Web enabled data management techniques and technologies

7. Point(s) of Contact

Questions of a technical nature shall be directed to the cognizant Technical Point of Contact, as specified below:

Science and Technology Point of Contact:

Dr. C. Michael Traweek Program Officer Office of Naval Research, 875 North Randolph Street, Suite 1425 Code 321 Maritime Sensing (MS) Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Telephone Number: 703-696-4112 Facsimile Number: 703-696-2007

Email Address: Mike_Traweek@ONR.Navy.Mil

Questions of a business nature shall be directed to the cognizant Contract Specialist, as specified below:

Business Point of Contact: Jennifer Williams

Jennifer Williams Contract Specialist Office of Naval Research 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 1425 Code: 0252

Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Telephone Number: (703)588-2432 Facsimile Number: (703) 696-3365

Email Address: Jennifer_Williams@ONR.Navy.Mil

8. Instrument Type(s)

Awards will primarily be in the form of cost plus fixed completion contracts. Grants may also be awarded.

9. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers

CFDA No.: 12.300

10. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Titles

DOD Basic and Applied Scientific Research

11. Other Information

For additional programmatic information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) see the following URL http://onr.navy.mil/02/baa/06_027/.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) plans to award contracts and or grants to the offerors whose proposals represent the best value to the Government in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Multiple awards are anticipated.

The period of performance of the awards is 12 months. It is anticipated that the average award will be in the range of \$420,000. The anticipated start date for awards is January 2007, subject to the availability of funds.

If offerors are enhancing work performed under other ONR or DoD projects, they must clearly identify the point of departure and what existing work will be brought forward and what new work will be performed under this BAA.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Only U.S. owned and U.S. Based organizations are eligible for award. Government activities (Federal, State, and Local) and Federally Funded Research Centers (FFRDCs) are not eligible for award under this solicitation. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBUCs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

(A) White Papers

The due date for receipt of White Papers is 2 p.m. (EDT) on 09/19/2006. It is anticipated that feedback on white paper submissions will be provided by 09/26/2006. As soon as the

final white paper evaluation process is completed, the Offeror will be notified via e-mail or letter of whether the government would encourage the submission of a Full Proposal. Encouragement of the submission of a Full Proposal does not assure a subsequent award. Neither a discouraging response nor the failure to submit a white paper precludes the offeror from submitting a full proposal. White Papers exceeding the page limit may not be evaluated.

(B) Full Proposals

The due date for receipt of Full Proposals is 2 p.m. (EDT) on 10/16/2006. It is anticipated that final selections will be made by 11/1/2006. As soon as the final proposal evaluation process is completed, the Offeror will be notified via email or letter of its selection or non-selection for an award. Proposals exceeding the page limit may not be evaluated.

2. Content and Format for Full Proposals

The White Papers and Proposals submitted under this BAA shall be unclassified. Confidential/classified proposals are not permitted and will not be accepted or considered for award. The Proposal submissions will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with FAR 15.207, applicable law, and DoD/DoN regulations. Offerors are expected to appropriately mark each page of their submission that contains proprietary information.

<u>Important Note</u>: Titles given to the white papers/proposals should be descriptive of the work they cover and not be merely a copy of the title of this solicitation.

A. White Paper Format

White papers submitted shall be uploaded to: "http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/06_27/".

- Paper Size 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins 1" inch
- Spacing single or double-spaced
- Font Times New Roman, 12 point
- Number of Pages No more than 14 pages (12 pages for the technical section and 2 pages for the cost section), single-sided pages (excluding cover page and resumes). White Papers exceeding the page limit may not be evaluated.

White Paper Content

White papers are limited to 14 pages and should include the following items:

• <u>Cover page</u>, clearly labeled "White Paper", including BAA title, number and date, title of white paper, administrative and technical points of contact along with telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses. The cover page will not count toward the fourteen page limit.

- <u>Technical Description</u>, to consist of clear discussion of the scientific concept and associated technologies being proposed, development objectives of the proposed effort, a clear statement of the major scientific issues to be resolved to accomplish objectives, approaches to resolving these science issues, and a clear description of and schedule for demonstration of the significant aspects of the concept.
- <u>Managerial Description</u>, to include partnering arrangements, if any, list of key personnel, specific prior experience of the offeror in the scientific areas addressed, facilities, and a plan of action with milestones.
- <u>Cost Description</u>, to be a two page cost estimate on a yearly basis partitioned by major tasks.
- One-page curriculum vitae for the principal investigator and key personnel should be submitted. One page limit per person. The vitae will not count toward the fourteen page limit.

B. Full Proposal Format – Volume 1 (Technical Proposal) and Volume 2 (Cost Proposal)

- Paper Size 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins 1" inch
- Spacing single or double-spaced
- Font Times New Roman, 12 point
- Number of Pages Volume 1 is limited to no more than 35 pages. Volume 2 has
 no page limit. Limitations within sections of the proposal are indicated in the
 individual descriptions shown below. The cover page, table of contents, and
 resumes are excluded from the page limitations. Full Proposals exceeding the
 page limit may not be evaluated.
- For Contracts: one (1) original copy, 3 copies and one electronic copy on a 3.5" Diskette or CD-ROM, (in Microsoft® Word or Excel 97 compatible or .PDF format).
- For Grants: one(1) electronic copy submitted via Grants.gov.

Full Proposal Content

Volume 1: Technical Proposal

Volume 1 of the Full Proposal shall include the following sections, each starting on a new page.

- <u>Cover Page:</u> This should include the words "Technical Proposal" and the following:
 - 1) BAA number;

- 2) Title of Proposal;
- 3) Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subcontractors, if applicable;
- 4) Technical contact/PI (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address)
- 5) Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address) and;
- 6) Duration of effort (differentiate basic effort and options, not to exceed a maximum of 12 months)
- <u>Table of Contents</u>: (Not included in page limitations)
- Statement of Work: A Statement of Work (SOW) clearly detailing the scope and objectives of the effort and the technical approach. It is anticipated that the proposed SOW will be incorporated as an attachment to the resultant award instrument. To this end, such proposals must include a severable self-standing SOW without any proprietary restrictions, which can be attached to the resultant award instrument. Include a detailed listing of the technical tasks/subtasks organized by year and a section which lists all proposed deliverables. When options are contemplated, the SOW must clearly identify separate optional tasks.
- <u>Project Schedule and Milestones:</u> A summary of the schedule of events and milestones.
- <u>Deliverables:</u> A detailed description of the results and products to be delivered, along with suggested due dates.
- Assertion of Data Rights: Include here a summary of any proprietary rights to pre-existing results, prototypes, or systems supporting and/or necessary for the use of the research, results, and/or prototype. Any data rights asserted in other parts of the proposal that would impact the rights in this section must be cross-referenced. If there are proprietary rights, the Offeror must explain how these affect its ability to deliver research data, subsystems and toolkits for integration. Additionally, Offerors must explain how the program goals are achievable in light of these proprietary limitations. If there are no claims of proprietary rights in pre-existing data, this section shall consist of a statement to that effect.
- Management Approach: A discussion of the overall approach to the management of this effort, including brief discussions of the total

organization, use of personnel; project/function/subcontractor relationships; government research interfaces; and planning, scheduling and control practice. Identify which personnel and subcontractors (if any) will be involved. Include a description of the facilities that are required for the proposed effort with a description of any Government Furnished Equipment/Hardware /Software /Information required, by version and/or configuration.

Volume 2: Cost Proposal

The Cost Proposal shall consist of a cover page and two parts, Part 1 will provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs by cost category by offeror's fiscal year and Part 2 will provide a cost breakdown by task/sub-task corresponding to the task numbers in the proposed Statement of Work.

<u>Cover Page:</u> The use of the SF 1411 is optional. The words "Cost Proposal" should appear on the cover page in addition to the following information:

- 1) BAA number;
- 2) Title of Proposal;
- 3) Identity of prime Offeror and complete list of subcontractors, if applicable;
- 4) Technical contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address);
- 5) Administrative/business contact (name, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address);
- 6) Duration of effort (separately identify basic effort and any proposed options);
- 7) Summary statement of proposed costs;
- 8) Cognizant DCAA and DCMA point of contact, address, phone/fax, electronic mail address (if readily available)

<u>Part 1</u>: Detailed breakdown of all costs, as applicable, by cost category by offeror's fiscal year (when options are contemplated, options must be separately identified and priced by fiscal year):

- <u>Direct Labor</u>: Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates;
- <u>Indirect Costs</u>: Fringe Benefits, Overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (Must show base amount and rate);
- <u>Travel</u>: Number of trips, destination, duration, etc.;

- <u>Subcontract</u>: A cost proposal as detailed as the Offeror's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. The subcontractor's cost proposal can be provided in a sealed envelope with the Offeror's cost proposal or will be requested from the subcontractor at a later date;
- <u>Consultant</u>: Provide consultant agreement or other document which verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate;
- <u>Materials</u> should be specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An
 explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and
 application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the Offeror's
 procurement method to be used (Competition, engineering estimate, market
 survey, etc.);
- Other Directs Costs, particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the contractor/recipient. (Justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the Offeror's procurement method to be used (Competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.);
- Fee/Profit including fee percentage.

<u>Part 2</u>: Cost breakdown by task/sub-task using the same task numbers in the Statement of Work.

3. Significant Dates and Times

Anticipated Schedule of Events *		
Event	Date	Time (Local
		Eastern Time)
White Papers Due (Page Limit: 14)	19 September 2006	2:00 p.m.
Notification of Evaluations of White	26 September 2006	
Papers		
Full Proposals Due	16 October 2006	2:00 p.m.
Notification of Selection for Award	*01 November 2006	
Contract/Grant Awards	*02 January 2006	
Kickoff Meeting	*15 January 2007	

^{*}These dates are estimates as of the date of this announcement.

4. Submission of Late Proposals (Applicable to White Papers and Full Proposals)

Any proposal, modification, or revision, that is received at the designated Government office after the exact time specified for receipt of proposals is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the contracting officer determines that accepting the late proposal would not unduly delay the acquisition and

- (a) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the announcement, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or
- (b) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designated for receipt of proposals and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt of proposals; or
- (c) It was the only proposal received.

However, a late modification of an otherwise timely and successful proposal, that makes its terms more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Acceptable evidence to establish the time or receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the Government office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the announcement, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the announcement closing date, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extend to the same time of day specified in the announcement on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

The contracting officer must promptly notify any offeror if its proposal, modifications, or revision was received late and must inform the offeror whether its proposal will be considered.

NOTE: Due to changes in security procedures since September 11, 2001, the time required for hard-copy written materials to be received at the Office of Naval Research has increased. Thus it is recommended that any hard-copy proposal be mailed several days before the deadline established in the solicitation so that it will not be received late and thus be ineligible for award consideration.

5. Address for the Submission of White Papers, if applicable, and Full Proposals –

URL for the Submission of White Papers

White papers shall be uploaded to: http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/06_27/.

Address for the Submission of Full Proposals

Contracts and Grant Proposals should Offeror not elect to submit via Grants.gov:

Ms. Jennifer Williams
ONR Contracts and Grants Award Division
Code ONR 252
Office of Naval Research
One Liberty Center, Room W1269F
875 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-1995
Telephone: (703) 588-2432

Grants Only:

ELECTRONIC PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRANTS:

Offerors may also submit full proposals for grants through Grants.gov. <u>You cannot</u> submit an application through Grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements carefully and start the process immediately. Remember you have to update your CCR registration annually. If you have any questions about your registration, you should contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you are still registered in Grants.gov.

Registration Requirements

There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit an application through Grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with Grants.gov). See http://grants.gov/GetStarted. Use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at:

http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.doc to guide you through the process. Designating an E-Business Pont of Contract (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants, who are not registered with CCR and Grants.gov, should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS: When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., Grants.gov registration).

Questions

Questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal proves must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Questions of a technical nature should be forwarded to the cognizant ONR Program Manager identified within the BAA. Questions pertaining to cost or an administrative nature should be forwarded to the cognizant ONR Contract Specialist identified within the BAA.

Application Receipt Notices

After an application is submitted, your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of four e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the emails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of Email Number 2. You will know that your application has reached ONR when the AOR receives Email Number 4. You will need the Submission

<u>Receipt Number (Email Number 1) to track a submission</u>. The titles of the four (4) E-Mails are as follows:

Email Number 1 – Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number

Email Number 2 – Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number

Email Number 3 – Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number

Email Number 4 – Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number

The AOR may then proceed to submit applications to Grants.Gov. For application instructions, go to http://www.grants.gov/Apply. Remember that you must open and complete the Application for Federal Assistance (Research and Related) (SF 424 (R&R)) first, as this form will automatically populate data fields in other forms. If you encounter any problems, contact customer support at 1-800-518-4726 or at support@grants.gov. If you forget your user name or password, follow the instructions provided in the Credential Provider tutorial.

VERY IMPORTANT - Download PureEdge Viewer

In order to download the application package, you will need to install PureEdge Viewer. This small, free program will allow you to access, complete and submit applications electronically and securely. For a free version of the software, visit the following website: http://www.grants.gov/DownloadViewer.

Training Tutorials

NOTE: The training demonstration at http://www.grants.gov/CompleteApplication will assist AORs in the application process. Tutorials may be printed by right-clicking on the tutorial and selecting "Print". The User Guide is found at: http://www.grants.gov/GrantsGov_UST_Grantee/!SSL!/WebHelp/userguide.doc NOTE: PROPOSALS SENT BY FAX OR E-MAIL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

V. EVALUATION INFORMATION

1. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria apply to both the White Papers and the Full Proposals.

These submissions will be selected through a technical/scientific/cost decision process with technical and scientific considerations being more important than cost. Even though cost is of less importance than all the technical factors combined, it will not be ignored. The degree of its importance will increase with the degree of equality of the proposals in relation to the other factors on which selection is to be based, or when the cost is so significantly high as to diminish the value of the technical superiority to the Government. Criteria A-D are listed in descending order of priority.

- a) Overall scientific and technical merits of the proposal.
- b) Naval relevance, transition potential and anticipated contributions of the proposed scientific research.
- c) Offeror's capabilities, related experience, and past performance, including the qualifications, capabilities and experience of the proposed team (including principal personnel).
- d) The realism of the proposed cost.

For proposed awards to be made as contracts to large businesses, the socio-economic merits of each proposal will be evaluated based on the extent of the Offeror's commitment in providing meaningful subcontracting opportunities for small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, woman-owned small businesses, HUBZone small businesses, veteran-owned small businesses, service disabled veteran-owned small businesses, historically black colleges and universities, and minority institutions.

Industry-Academia Partnering – ONR highly encourages partnering among industry and academia with a view toward speeding the incorporation of new science and technology into fielded systems. Proposals that utilize industry-academic partnering which enhances the development of novel S&T advances will be given favorable consideration

Industry-Government Partnering – ONR highly encourages partnering among industry and Government with a view toward speeding the incorporation of new science and technology into fielded systems. Proposals that utilize industry-Government partnering which enhances the development of novel S&T advances will be given favorable consideration

2. Evaluation Panel

Potential Offerors should understand that government technical experts drawn from the Office of Naval Research and other naval and defense activities/agencies will participate in the evaluation of the White Papers and Full Proposals. All government personnel participating in evaluation will be bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements to protect proprietary and source-selection information.

The Government may use selected support personnel to assist in providing both technical expertise and administrative support regarding any white papers and full proposals ensuing from this announcement. These support contractors will be bound by appropriate non-disclosure agreements to protect proprietary and source-selection information.

VI. <u>AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION</u>

1. Administrative Requirements

- The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this announcement is 541710 with a small business size standard of 500 employees.
- <u>CCR</u>: Successful Offerors not already registered in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) will be required to register in CCR prior to award of any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction agreement. Information on CCR registration is available at http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/ccr.htm.
- <u>Certifications</u>: Proposals should be accompanied by a completed certification package which can be accessed on the ONR Home Page at Contracts & Grants. For grant proposals the certification package is entitled, "<u>Certifications for Grants and Agreements</u>." For contract proposals, the certification package is entitled, "<u>Representations and Certifications for Contracts</u>." Offerors seeking contracts must also have completed the On Line Representation and Certifications Application (ORCA) found at https://orca.bpn.gov.
- <u>Subcontracting Plans</u>: Full Proposals that will result in the award of a contract exceeding \$500,000 and are submitted by all but small business concerns will be required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan in accordance with FAR 52.219-9.

2. Reporting

The following is a sample list of reports that could be required under a research effort. However, specific reports should be proposed by each offeror and finalized with the contracting agent:

- Detailed Technical Data
- Technical and Financial Progress Reports
- Demonstration Results
- Presentation Material(s)
- Other Documentation or Reports as Required
- Final Report

VII. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Government Property/Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) and Facilities

Contractors are ordinarily required to furnish all property necessary to perform Government contracts. However, should an offeror be incapable of providing the property necessary to perform the work, the proposer must provide a very specific description of any equipment/hardware that it needs to acquire to perform the work. This description should indicate whether or not each particular piece of equipment/hardware will be included as part of a deliverable item under the resulting award. Also, this description should identify the component, nomenclature, and configuration of the equipment/hardware that it proposes to purchase for this effort. It is the Government's desire to have the contractors purchase the equipment/hardware for deliverable items under their contract. The purchase on a direct reimbursement basis of special test equipment or other equipment that is not included in a deliverable item will be evaluated for allowability on a case-by-case basis. Maximum use of Government integration, test, and experiment facilities is encouraged in each of the Offeror's proposals. Should government furnished equipment or facilities be provided, no fee or profit shall apply to the equipment costs.

Government research facilities and operational military units are available and should be considered as potential government furnished equipment/facilities. These facilities and resources are of high value and some are in constant demand by multiple programs. It is unlikely that all facilities would be used for the MCM Data Fusion Techniques for Multiple Unmanned Sensors & Systems. The use of these facilities and resources will be negotiated as the program unfolds. Offerors should explain which of these facilities they recommend.

2. Project Meetings & Reviews

Individual program reviews between the ONR sponsor and the performer may be held as necessary.

Semi yearly technology and program status review may be held to provide a forum for reviews of the latest results from scientific research and to foster interactions among Principal Investigators. These meeting will be held at various sites throughout the country. For costing purposes, Offerors should assume that 60% of these meetings will be at or near ONR, Arlington VA and 40% at the award recipient's or other government facilities. Interim meetings are likely, but these will be accomplished via video telephone conferences, telephone conferences, or web-based collaboration tools.

3. Use of Animals and Human Subjects in Research

If animals are to be utilized in the research effort proposed, the Offeror must complete a DoD Animal Use Protocol with supporting documentation (copies of AAALAC accreditation and /or NIH assurance, IACUC approval, research literature database searches, and the two most recent USDA inspection reports) prior to award. Similarly,

for any proposal that involves the experimental use of human subjects, the Offeror must obtain approval from the Offeror's committee for protection of human subjects (normally referred to as an Institutional Review Board, (IRB)). The Offeror must also provide NIH (OHRP/DHHS) documentation of a Federal Wide Assurance that covers the proposed human subjects study. If the Offeror does not have a Federal Wide Assurance, a DoD Single Project Assurance for that work must be completed prior to award. Please see http://www.onr.navy.mi./02/howto.htm or contact the ONR Animal/Human Use Administrator at (703) 696-4046 for further information.

4. Recombinant DNA

Special information that is needed when experiments will be performed using recombinant DNA: proposals using recombinant DNA must include documentation of compliance with DHHS recombinant DNA regulations, approval of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), and copies of the DHHS Approval of the IBC letter.

5. Department of Defense High Performance Computing Program

The DoD High Performance Computing Program (HPCMP) furnishes the DoD S & T and DT & E communities with use-access to very powerful high performance computing systems. Awardees of ONR contracts, grants, and assistance instruments may be eligible to use HPCMP assets in support of their funded activities if ONR Program Officer approval is obtained and if security/screening requirements are favorably completed. Additional information and an application may be found at http://www.hpcmo.hpc.mil/.